



United Nations Activity Report

The [63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW) is an opportunity for representatives from [United Nations](#) Member States, other United Nations entities, and civil society to review progress toward gender equality. Participants meet annually for 10 days in New York (United States) to identify challenges and barriers to gender equality and to forge alliances to overcome these challenges.

On Sunday, 10 March 2019, one day prior to the start of the forum, the [Committee on the Status of Women](#) hosted a Consultation Day. The day featured a broad overview of the themes of the forum and allowed for networking opportunities.

Report Submitted by Pennie Sessler Branden, Sigma United Nations Liaison

Social protection systems, along with the empowerment of women and girls, impact all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but especially SDGs # 2, 4, 5, 8, and 17. The panels and presentations were about establishing social protections for women and girls through gender equality, education, equal pay for equal work, food security, ending violence against women, etc. The day concluded with a panel of international experts presenting possible solutions to some of the problems preventing women from achieving these SDGs. This day was packed with information and examples of how to empower women and girls where they are and the social protection systems needed for them.

Also, Gharsanay IbnulAmeen was introduced as the [2019 Woman of Distinction](#) at Consultation Day. Each year, this award is given to a woman in recognition of her leadership in the struggle for gender equality, human rights, and women's empowerment. IbnulAmeen is the youngest award recipient to date. She is a 22-year-old grassroots advocate and co-founder of the [Afghan Girls Sustainable Education Project](#) and the [Global Youth Development Initiative](#).